

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 16433 190742Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /139 W
-----055474 200014Z /75

R 190715Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7430

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 16433

FOLLOWING CABLE SENT IMMEDIATE NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA
NOVEMBER 19 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 1762

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EAGR, IN
SUBJECT: CYCLONE DAMAGE IN SOUTH INDIA

REF: MADRAS 1756, NEW DELHI 1633 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CYCLONE EXPECTED TO POSSIBLE HIT MADRAS AND NOTHERN TAMIL
NADU NOVEMBER 18 HAS BYPASSED CITY AND IS NOW (8:30 A.M. LOCAL
TIME) CENTERED 180 KM. NORTHEAST OF MADRAS OFF THE CENTRAL
ANDHRA PRADESH COAST. STORM, DESCRIBED BY MADRAS REPORTER AS
LARGEST HE HAS SEEN IN 25 YEARS, NOW HEADING NORTHEAST AND
EXPECTED TO HIT ANDHRA IN THE AREA AROUND GUNTUR IN THE
KRIDHNA-GODAVARI DELTA SOMETIME TODAY. PADDY HARVEST IN THAT
AREA HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOMETIME; IT IS UNCLEAR AT
THIS POINT WHAT DAMAGE THE CYCLONE COULD CAUSE. DANGER OF
FLOODING IN MADRAS CITY AND OUTLYING AREAS APPEARS TO HAVE
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SUBSIDED AS STORM DID NOT TURN TOWARDS NOTH TAMIL NADU AND
RAINFALL HAS TOPPED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. CARE TAMIL NADU DIRECTOR JAMES LORY TOLD CONGEN OFFICER HIS
FIELD REPORTS INDICATE ACTUAL DEATH TOLL NOW OVER 2000 (OFFICIAL

DEATH TOLL TODAY LISTED AS ABOUT 400). WHEN CARE RESPONDED TO STATE GOVERNMENT CALL FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES' ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT ASKED CARE TO RELEASE 1300 TONS OF FOOD IN CARE WAREHOUSES IN AREA AFFECTED BY NOVEMBER 12 CYCLONE. OFFICIALS TOLD LORY GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSES THERE HAD EXHAUSTED THEIR STOCKS AND WOULD REQUIRE A WEEK TO TEN DAYS TO RECEIVE SUPPLIES FROM ELSEWHERE. OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO ASKED CARE TO PROVIDE ABOUT \$700,000 WORTH OF CLOTHING AND BLANKETS, BUT DECISION ON THIS REQUEST WILL BE MADE ONLY AFTER LORY MAKES ON THE SPOT INVESTIGATION. HE IS PLANNING TO LEAVE FOR STORM AFFECTED AREA NOVEMBER 22 RETURNING NOVEMBER 24 AND WILL REPORT TO US AS WELL. LORY MET WITH STATE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER NOVEMBER 18 AND IS MEETING WITH CHIEF MINISTER M.G. RAMACHANDRAN TODAY TO LEARN WHAT FURTHER ASSISTANCE CARE MIGHT PROVIDE.

3. AT THIS POINT WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROBLEM FOR THE RELIEF EFFORT IS NOT RESOURCES BUT DISTRIBUTION. IN OUR OPINION, OUR CURRENT INDIRECT ASSISTANCE THROUGH CARE AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IS THE CORRECT APPROACH AND AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE APPEARS TO BE NO NEED FOR ANY DIRECT USG INVOLVEMENT.

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GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CROP DESTRUCTION, STORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE16433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770430-0450
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771138/aaaabgli.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79653e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRAS 1756, 77 NEW DELHI 1633
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 517997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CYCLONE DAMAGE IN SOUTH INDIA
TAGS: SWEL, EAGR, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79653e15-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009